

Adopted in Helsinki on 31 October 2008

Government Decree

on the National Institute for Health and Welfare (675/2008)

In accordance with the decision of Parliament, made on the submission of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the following is enacted on the basis of section 9 of the Act adopted on 31 October 2008 on the National Institute for Health and Welfare (668/2008):

Section 1

Duties of the Institute

In addition to what is provided in the Act on the National Institute for Health and Welfare (668/2008), it is the duty of the Institute to:

- 1) function as an expert authority in matters concerning social welfare, special care of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, public health, specialised health care, mental health work, infectious diseases, environmental health and gene technology, and other matters related to the Institute's sphere of activity;
- 2) take charge of matters concerning state mental hospitals and social welfare units, and granting assistance as referred to in the Decree on war evacuees' social welfare (376/1942), as separately provided; and
- 3) ensure Finnish vaccine supplies and monitor the quality of vaccines and comparable products used in Finland.

The Institute must agree with the competent authority in charge of medicines control on the implementation of vaccine quality control referred to in subsection 1(3) and on the related division of duties and co-operation in order that vaccine control as a whole is arranged as required by the Medicines Act (395/1987).

Section 2

Management and staff of the Institute

The Institute is headed by a director general. In addition, the Institute has deputy directors general, an administrative director, a strategy director and other personnel in public-service employment relationships and contractual employment relationships. The Institute may also have research professors.

The director general and deputy directors general may use the title of professor.

Section 3

Qualification requirements

The qualification requirements of the Institute's public posts are as follows:

- 1) the director general must hold a doctorate and be well acquainted with the Institute's sphere of activity, and must have leadership skills proven in practice and experience in leadership;
- 2) the deputy directors general must hold a doctorate and be well acquainted with the field of their division, and must have leadership skills proven in practice and experience in leadership; and
- 3) the administrative director and the strategy director must hold a higher university degree and be well acquainted with administrative duties, and must have leadership skills proven in practice and experience in leadership.

Section 4

Duties of director general

The director general is in charge of the Institute's activities and responsible for the attainment of the performance targets set for it, and for the economical and effective performance of the Institute's duties. The director general must monitor developments in the Institute's sphere of activity and see to the general development and renewal of the Institute's activities.

Section 5

Duties of deputy directors general

The deputy directors general are in charge of their own division and responsible for the attainment of goals established for their division in the performance agreement drawn up between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Institute and in the Institute's action plan. The deputy directors general must follow developments in the field of their division and arrange research and development work related to this field.

Section 6

Appointing and engaging personnel

The director general is appointed by the Government.

Other personnel are appointed or hired by the director general or by other personnel members as provided in the Institute's rules of procedure.

Research professorships may be filled by invitation.

Section 7

Researchers and trainees

With the director general's consent, the Institute may engage outside researchers and trainees who, without receiving compensation from the Institute, engage in research or take part in practical training and may to this end use the equipment and materials of the Institute.

The provisions pertaining to the conditions for engaging researchers or trainees and to their position are laid down in the rules of procedure.

Section 8

Representation of the State

The Institute acts as plaintiff and respondent on behalf of the State and oversees the State's interests and rights in courts of law and with regard to other public authorities in matters pertaining to its sphere of activity.

Section 9

Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2009.

This Decree repeals the Decree on the National Public Health Institute (374/1998) and the Decree on the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (1120/1992), as amended.

When the public posts of deputy director general are filled for the first time, the divisions for these posts will be as follows:

- 1) welfare and health policies;
- 2) welfare and health promotion;
- 3) health protection; and
- 4) health and social welfare services.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Decree may be undertaken before the Act's entry into force.

Helsinki, 31 October 2008

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